

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 736

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commemorate the 175th
anniversary of the Diocese of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to join with its citizens in celebrating joyous and historic occasions in the history of our great State; and

WHEREAS, such an historic event in the history of the State of Tennessee is the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Diocese of Nashville on July 28, 1837; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Catholic Church in Tennessee can be traced to 1810, when Father Stephen Badin from Bardstown, Kentucky, became the first missionary priest in Tennessee and later to 1820, when Holy Rosary, a small wooden church, was built near Capitol Hill in Nashville to serve the Irish bridge builders residing in the area; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 1837, Pope Gregory XVI designated Tennessee as an official diocese with boundaries at that time that encompassed the entire state. In 1838, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Nashville, The Most Reverend Bishop Richard Pius Miles, arrived in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Nashville has enjoyed the inspirational leadership of eleven Bishops during its existence, including The Most Reverend Bishop Miles, The Most Reverend Bishop James Whelan, The Most Reverend Bishop Patrick Feehan, The Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Rademacher, The Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Sebastian Byrne, The Most Reverend Bishop Alphonse John Smith, The Most Reverend Bishop William Lawrence Adrian, The Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Aloysius Durick, The Most Reverend Bishop James Daniel Niedergeses, The Most Reverend Bishop Edward Urban Kmiec, and the current Bishop, The Most Reverend Bishop David Raymond Choby; and

WHEREAS, four years after the arrival of Bishop Miles, St. Michael Church was built in the Cedar Hill community of Robertson County and today is the oldest continuously operating mission in the state. St. Mary of Seven Sorrows in downtown Nashville opened in 1847 and became the second cathedral; and

WHEREAS, bringing educational opportunities for girls to the growing state, four Dominican Sisters arrived in Nashville in 1860 and enrolled the first young women in their new school, St. Cecilia Academy. Six years later, the Sisters of Mercy established St. Bernard Academy in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, still committed to providing quality education, the Diocese of Nashville today supports twenty exemplary schools across the region, including Father Ryan High School, Pope John Paul II High School, and St. Cecilia Academy, in addition to Aquinas College which is operated by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia; and

WHEREAS, rendering medical care and assistance to those in need, St. Mary Cathedral was converted into a military hospital during the Civil War to treat wounded soldiers from both armies, and in 1898, St. Thomas Hospital was opened by the Daughters of Charity to fulfill their health care ministry; and

WHEREAS, the start of the new century saw the opening of Holy Family Church in Nashville to serve black Catholics, the establishment of the first Knights of Columbus Council, #544, in the diocese, and the dedication of the Cathedral of the Incarnation; and

WHEREAS, Father Ryan High School for boys was dedicated in 1929; Camp Marymount for Catholic boys and girls was opened in 1946; and the Nashville Chapter of the Serra Club was formed in 1954; and

WHEREAS, the 1960s saw the opening of Aquinas College in Nashville, the convening of the Second Vatican Council in Rome, and the establishment of Catholic Charities of Tennessee by Bishop William Adrian; and

WHEREAS, the next two decades brought major changes in the boundaries of the Diocese of Nashville, as the western counties of Tennessee became part of the newly

established Diocese of Memphis on January 6, 1971, and eastern Tennessee became the Diocese of Knoxville on September 8, 1988; and

WHEREAS, ever faithful to the Church's mission to welcome the stranger, the Hispanic Ministry Office was opened in 1992 and today priests from India, Africa, Mexico, Vietnam, South Korea, and Haiti serve the diocese and its ever growing immigrant membership; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Nashville offers its membership a cornucopia of programs, including Search and Life Teen for teenagers; Cursillo for adults; the Knights of Columbus; the Knights of Peter Claver; the Ladies of Charity; and the Legion of Mary, in addition to ministries such as the Parish Twinning Program that is working with Haitian communities to provide medical care and donations, as well as prayer and companionship; and

WHEREAS, today, the Diocese of Nashville operates fifty-three parishes and three missions across Middle Tennessee, including Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville; also in Nashville the Church of the Assumption; Christ the King Church; Church of the Most Holy Name; Holy Rosary Church; Our Lady of Guadalupe; St. Mary Villa Parish; St. Ann Church; St. Edward Church; St. Henry Church; St. Mary of the Seven Sorrows; St. Patrick Church; St. Pius X Church; St. Vincent de Paul Church; St. Ignatius of Antioch; St. Martha Church in Ashland City; Holy Family Church in Brentwood; Christ the Redeemer Church in Centerville; Immaculate Conception in Clarksville; St. Catherine Church in Columbia; St. Thomas Aquinas of Cookeville; Good Shepherd Church in Decherd; St. Christopher Church in Dickson; St. Francis of Assisi of Dover; St. Anthony Church in Fayetteville; St. Matthew Church and St. Philip Church in Franklin; St. John Vianney Church in Gallatin; Our Lady of the Lake in Hendersonville; Holy Trinity Church in Hohenwald; St. Lawrence Church of Joelton; Holy Family Church in Lafayette; Sacred Heart Church in Lawrenceburg; St. Frances Cabrini in Lebanon; St. John the Evangelist in Lewisburg; Sacred Heart Church and St. Joseph Church in Loretto; St. Joseph Church in Madison; St. Mark Church in Manchester; St. Patrick Church in McEwen; St. Catherine Church in McMinnville; St. Rose of Lima Church in Murfreesboro; St. Stephen Church in Old Hickory; Immaculate Conception Church in Pulaski; St. William Church in Shelbyville; St. Gregory Church in Smyrna; St. Luke Church in Sparta; Church of the Nativity in Spring Hill; Our Lady of Lourdes of Springfield; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church of Tennessee Ridge; St. Paul the

Apostle Church in Tullahoma; St. Cecilia Church in Waynesboro; and the Mission of St. Michael in Cedar Hill, the Mission of the Divine Savior in Celina; and the Mission of St. Margaret Mary in Decherd; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Nashville is one of the truly inspirational institutions of the great state of Tennessee, and it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this historic religious institution and its members as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the religious leaders and congregants of the Diocese of Nashville upon their 175th anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding service to our fellow Tennesseans and the entire world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.